




Meteor



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Around USAG Benelux

Belgium

U.S. installation realignment in Belgium announced

The Department of Defense recently announced its decision to inactivate and return three microwave radio relay sites to Belgium.

The sites are: Houtem, Westrozebeke and Flobecq.

According to the DoD news release, the United States no longer requires these sites since the service provided by the radio relay system installed in 1996 will be replaced by higher-capacity, lower cost commercial communications service.

These actions will permit more resources to be focused on other U.S. Air Forces Europe (USAFE) mission requirements and to realize efficiency and cost savings. Closure of these sites will result in an estimated annual savings of over \$84,000 based on a comparison of the current annual operations and maintenance costs to an annual replacement commercial communications cost.

Benelux

Winter Dinner set for Retiree association

The Association of Retired Members of the U.S. Armed Forces in Belgium has set its winter dinner for Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Hotel Nivelles-Sud, just off Autoroute E19, halfway between Brussels and Mons. For reservations, call 010/81.03.45 by Feb. 7.

Overseas Housing Allowance Survey

Annually, the Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance conducts the OHA Utility Survey annually to collect utility and recurring maintenance expense data from uniformed service members who receive an Overseas Housing Allowance.

The survey is scheduled for Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands from Feb. 1 - March 2 at <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oha/ohasurvey>

Individual Deployment Training Course is Cadre experiences



Seventeen students convoyed around the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Training Center in partnership with U.S. Army NATO Individual Deployment Training Cadre, 7th Army Training Command and 21st Theater Support Group. The course is developed to give deploying service members "down range" experience with a curriculum flexible to meet new contingency operations. Soldiers from USAG Benelux are attending training via the organizations NATO partnership.

Story and photos by J.D. Hardesty

Heightened awareness is key for Soldiers headed down range in support of U.S. Army NATO contingency operations.

To make the Individual Deployment Training course with a sense of realism, the U.S. NATO IDT cadre merge their down range experiences with "real world" scenarios under a curriculum umbrella aimed primarily at saving lives.

"We try to provide a training environment with a sense of realism for people that have never been down range," said Sgt. Tomy Havens, who instructs mounted and dismounted operations. Havens spent six months in support of contingency operations.

"For those who have been to Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq or Afghanistan, this course is a good refresher before they head wheels up with their ruck sack," he said.

Threats can come from anywhere, so Sgt. Deane Bostick, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the opposing force and a medical evacuation instructor who spent 14 months in Iraq, "provides basic 360-degree awareness training to help save lives. With this training, they can be an asset to the convoy instead of a hinderance."

The field exercise portion of the course is to teach them how to react and give them confidence.

"They have to react to contact, and how they react as a team is the most important element of the training," said Staff Sgt. Michael Radock, who spent 12 months in support of down range operations.

Radock explained that from colonel to private everyone going through the course has to build cohesion.

"We try to teach all of them to survive," Bostick said. "Many students don't think they will be deployed while stationed at NATO, or they think because they're in a finance or administrative position, they won't need this type of training."

"No one is exempt from travelling on the roads down range and how you respond threats, depending on the situation, can save your career or save your life," Bostick said.

While the USAG Benelux training area is small, "We make it bigger than it really is by using our imaginations when we design the several field exercise scenarios," Radock said.

See IDT Training, Page 3



838th Trans. wraps-up OIF/OEF support at Port

Editors Note: *The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux staff provided logistical and quality of life support for Soldiers working at the port.*

By Lt.Col. John Hanson
Commander 838th Trans. Bn.
ANTWERP, Belgium - Personnel of the 838th Transportation Battalion completed upload of the Large Medium Speed RoRo (LMSR) USNS Seay at the Port of Antwerp, Belgium on Dec. 18. This operation was the final push of U.S. Army Europe forces deploying in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom that began this past August.

The deployment involved two 1st Armored Division brigade combat teams, V Corps Headquarters, and numerous separate companies and battalions from throughout U.S. Army Europe. In total, more than 4,000 pieces of Army cargo were loaded in Antwerp with cargo arriving from Germany via barge and on more than 45 trains and 500 commercial trucks.

This deployment was a true team effort with personnel manning offices at the port from the Belgian Army, 21st Theater Support Command, Military Sealift Command, V Corps, the 623rd Movement Control Team, and liaison officers from all units.

The 838th provided office space for all Soldiers and civilians on quay 1241 at the Port of Antwerp, with dining facilities and lodging provided by the 21st Theater Support Command.

Soldiers and civilians from throughout the bat-

Northern Law Center opens Tax Center

The Northern Law Center's Tax Center offers free tax preparation and e-filing for all service members, Department of Defense civilian employees, retirees and their dependents.

The tax center offers assistance with both federal and state income tax returns. And by e-filing, taxpayers will usually have their refund within 2 weeks.

The center, located on SHAPE in building 318, room 207, is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through the end of June.

The Law Center's tax preparation in the Brussels area will be by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Jan. 31 through the end of June at USAG Brussels in building 4, room 329.

Taxpayers will be seen on either walk-in or appointment basis. Appointments are recommended for taxpayers with rental property, sales of stock/mutual funds, itemized deductions, foreign tax issues, or other complicated matters.

Taxpayers should bring the following to the tax center to file: Identification card; W-2s and other income statements; Social Security cards for each person listed on the tax return; a voided check for direct deposit; copy of last year's tax return; if filing jointly, taxpayers should bring their spouse or a Power of Attorney if the spouse is absent.

The tax center also has the necessary federal and state income tax forms and special powers of attorney to allow another person to file on behalf of the taxpayer.

For appointments, call DSN 423-4906 or Com. 065/44-4906.



PHOTO: Courtesy Bram de Jong, 598th Transportation Group
Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom equipment is uploaded by 838th Transportation Battalion at the Port of Antwerp. The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux staff provided logistical and quality of life support during the five-month operation that ended in mid-December.

talion augmented the team in Antwerp during high volume ship operations. This included personnel from the Rhine River Detachment, the 950th Trans. Co. in Bremerhaven, Germany and the 951st Trans. Co. in Ipswich, United Kingdom. This made for a busy autumn for the battalion with concurrent cargo and ammunition operations being supported in Poland, the Azores, Norway and throughout northern Europe.

One unique aspect of the deployment was the development and execution of a new Concept of Operations for unit cargo deploying via commercial carriers. To preclude any problems with unit cargo deploying via commercial carrier, all equipment and containers were brought to the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC)-controlled staging area.

Upon arrival of cargo, personnel from the 838th inspected vehicles and containers to verify dimensional data, inspect hazardous material, review all documentation, and load breakbulk cargo onto flat racks. A joint inspection would then be conducted between personnel from the deploying units, the battalion and surveyors from the commercial carrier.

After passing the joint inspection, cargo would be loaded aboard a barge and taken on a four hour sail from the SDDC staging area to commercial carrier's quay for subsequent receipt and loading aboard the carrier's vessel later in the week. This CONOPS proved successful by significantly decreasing any documentation or Hazardous material issues that needed to be resolved after cargo arrived at the commercial carrier's staging area.

The deployment support activities from battalion personnel extended beyond the Port of Antwerp.

Soldiers, U.S. civilian and host national employees deployed from their home stations in Mannheim, Rotterdam and Bremerhaven to assist the deploying units in their own unit and designated pre-deployment staging area locations.

These support personnel helped the outgoing units with updating

TCAIMS (Transportation Corps Automation Information Management System) data, stuffing containers and ISUs (International airlift/helicopter Slingable container Unit) and all aspects of cargo and hazardous material documentation.

Soldiers from SDDC's 1394th Deployment Support Brigade also contributed immeasurably in getting deploying units from fort to port. Maj. Tim Pentaleri and his team were a critical link and the 838th fully appreciated having their invaluable assistance in Germany for the OIF/OEF deployment.

The transportation battalion will now turn its focus on cargo expected to redeploy from Southwest Asia back to Europe over the next few months. Although some OIF/OEF cargo will continue to deploy through the Port of Antwerp as part of the commercial carrier CONOPS, the battalion anticipates the majority of the projected workload to be reception, staging and onward movement of redeployment cargo. For cargo redeploying into Antwerp, the 838th will discharge the ships and also be responsible for loading the cargo onto the trains, trucks, and barges that will transport the equipment on the last leg of its journey from the Port of Antwerp back to home station.

SNAP's Home security tips

The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program office recently provided the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux community with home security tips so community members do not become a crime statistic.

- ☐ Secure all exterior doors.
- ☐ Place dead bolts on all exterior doors.
- ☐ Equip basement doors with locks to isolate that area from the house.
- ☐ Bar basement windows.
- ☐ Use a locking device on windows even when they are open.
- ☐ Trim foliage that may conceal intruders.
- ☐ Lock and remove the keys from your car even while in the garage.
- ☐ Keep walkways and doorways well lit.
- ☐ Install motion activated lights on all other areas of the exterior.
- ☐ Brace and double lock sliding glass doors.

When Away From Home

- ☐ Don't advertise your absence - try to make the house look lived in while you are away.

- ☐ Stop all deliveries to your house.
- ☐ Don't leave notes on your door stating that you are away and when you plan on returning.
- ☐ Use a timer to turn on the lights or radio at different times of the day.
- ☐ Have a neighbor or trusted friend check on your house periodically.
- ☐ If you are going to be gone for an extended period of time, ensure that a neighbor or trusted friend comes over and collects any mail in your mailbox, adjusts the curtains, rakes up the leaves, or mows the lawn - anything to make the house look as if it is occupied.
- ☐ Before you leave to go on vacation, temporary duty, or a trip for the weekend take advantage of the Vacation Watch Programs that are offered by the USAG Chièvres, USAG Schinnewil, and USAG Brussels Military Police. SHAPE Federal Police and Dutch Police also offer these programs. If you have any questions about any of these programs, you can call the SNAP office at 361-6143 / 0032(0)68-27-6143 or send an email to SNAP@benelux.army.mil.

IDT Training From page 1

“This is the first time we used a suicide bomber scenario,” Bostick said. “The 15 IDT cadre members continually brainstorm, incorporates from everyone down range experiences to create or develop opposing force scenarios. We even coordinate new ideas while the convoy is in route.”

“As an NCO, there is nothing more rewarding than training Soldiers...to see where they started from and how much they develop,” Radock said. “They take the training seriously and grow exponentially over the five-days of training.”

Havens expressed how serious the training is to the students by using the Pfc. Jessica Lynch example, the former prisoner of way from 2003.

“It doesn’t matter who you are, what rank, color or sex you are, an improvised explosive devise doesn’t discriminate, kills all and never sleeps,” said Havens.

For Sgt. Jennifer Ream, stationed in

Heidelberg and assigned to Allied Forces Southern Europe, this is her second time through the course as she readies for another deployment.

“The course has improved, it has come full circle since I was here last year,” she said.

Maj. Timothy Higgins, a collection manager with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps stationed at Rheindalem, Germany who spent 16 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 1st Armored Division said “The course allows Soldiers to develop battle drills that are right on and lets everyone practice what’s important.

Pfc. Charles Fidline, a military police officer with U.S. Army Garrison Brussels said the hands-on training gave him more “convoy drills, securing the perimeters experience that field manuals just can’t teach.”

“Nothing in the training was simulated,” said Sgt. James Sebastiano, who

is assigned to an Allied Forces Northern Europe element based at the Allied Joint Force Command in Brunssum, The Netherlands. “When Sgt. Ream was wounded, we had to physically pull her out of the vehicle. You don’t know what it is like until you have to do it.”

According to Sgt. 1st Class Earnest Jackson, an equipment manager with U.S. Army NATO who is stationed at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, “The training makes you more aware of your surrounding and your reactions become automatic.

“The training built trust in each others abilities,” Jackson said. “If someone had a phobia, they would have over come it by the end of this course and they know they will survive.”



Soldiers going through the week-long Individual Deployment Training Course at the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Training Center dismounted from their vehicles to form a security posture during training Jan. 19. The training curriculum is designed to ready troops headed downrange in support of NATO contingency operations.

Avian Flu Facts

The recent events in Turkey have brought the Avian Flu back into the news and we received a number of calls requesting information. What do we really need to know about the situation? There is currently no pandemic and the virus is not present in Europe.

❑ The virus is not spread from human to human and those few who have been infected have been in very close prolonged contact with sick birds.

❑ If you should come into contact with a sick bird or any other animal, call Preventive Medicine at 423-5823. They will contact the appropriate local agency.

Our health authorities in the military and world wide are watching

the situation closely and are monitoring infections globally. Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine is in regular contact with local host nation agencies and will keep you informed of any change in the situation. Just continue to follow the regular hygiene advice for every flu season:

- ❑ Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze
- ❑ Wash your hands afterward for 30 seconds
- ❑ Avoid crowds
- ❑ And if you haven’t gotten your flu shot, go get one.

For more information contact the Health Promotion 423-5979. To report sick or injured animals: Preventive Medicine 423-5823/5044/5952 after hours (32) 0476 76 03 27.

About the

Meteor-Heraut

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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Submit articles in plain text and separate photographic files, but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

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Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates Copy is due at noon

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Jan. 16	Jan. 27	Feb. 13	Feb. 24	Mar. 13	Mar. 24	Apr. 10	Apr. 21
Jan. 20	Feb. 10	Feb. 27	Mar. 10	Mar. 27	Apr. 7	Apr. 24	May 5

**Chièvres Garrison...serving SHAPE/Chièvres communities****Community Notes****Shape Athletics**

"Listen to your heart" campaign starts Valentine's Day and onwards.

Athletic staff will demonstrate how to use heart rate monitors to improve training programs, help sedentary personnel to get initially started and also help current gym-goers improve training program aiming to achieve healthy lifestyle.

A **Fun Run** is set for Feb. 21 at 12:30 p.m. Registration ends 15 minutes prior to start. For more information 423-3993.

SACEUR Sports

Ten Pin Bowling Feb. 22. For more information call 423-4717.

Unit Level Basketball season 05-06 games start at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more info call 423-8007.

French Headstart Class available

The SHAPE Education Center offers free Headstart language classes in French. Classes are mandatory for military members and open to all members of the SHAPE community (on a space-available-basis.) The next class is set for Feb. 13-24, Monday through Friday, 1-4:30 p.m. with a field trip on the final day. Call 423-3466 or email shape.education@benelux.army.mil to register.

eArmyU offers courses

eArmyU offers 148 programs from 28 institutions providing flexible web-based courses and the technology to support it through the Laptop Option.

Soldiers must be active duty military with at least 36 months remaining in service and fulfill a 12-credit minimum through the eArmyU program in 36 months. For more information visit the eArmyU web page, www.eArmyU.com, or contact the SHAPE Education Center by emailing shape.education@benelux.army.mil.

Armed Forces Team Building course set

The Armed Forces Team Building will host the following class Feb. 9, 4-8 p.m., Relationship Building- Personal and Professional:

- ☐ 2.01.1 Enhancing Relationship Building: 1 hour, 45 minutes
- ☐ 2.02.2 Management Skills: Communication: 1 hour, 15 minutes
- ☐ 2.02.4 Management Skills: Understanding Needs: 45 minutes
- ☐ 3.01.1 Listening Skills: 1 hour, 15 minutes

Call 423-5425 for more information.

Chièvres celebrates 'The Dream'

By J.D. Hardesty

For more than a century Americans battled for freedom and equality as Union Soldiers fought their southern brethren in the Civil War.

Langston Hughes, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others came to the forefront to start tearing down the walls of segregation and oppression.

But the voice heard around the nation that would lead to civil change was from "a spiritual man," said Lt. Col. (ret.) Ranger Russel as he addressed those gathered to honor the contributions of King at a memorial breakfast Jan. 17, at the Prime Time Lounge, on Caserne Daumerie.

A minister, who came from a long line of ministers, King used his sermon skills to bring awareness to America.

With passion and prose, King brought a "coalition of conscious to America," he said.

As Parks refused to give up her seat as segregated southern society dictated, King joined her stance and let a 382-day boycott that economically crippled the Montgomery, Ala., bus system in 1956.

His voice and vision rallied more than 250,000 people to march on Washington D.C., as King told the nation's leaders "I have a Dream."

In 1963, King was named *Time Magazine's* Man of the Year, "lived through happiness and failure taking his moment of opportunity to stand up for equality," Russell said. "He dared to let his voice be heard."

"He was the perfect man for an imperfect time," Russell said of King, who, at 35 years of age, received a Nobel Peace Prize.

King's influence has carried forward through the decades since his death in Memphis in 1968.

"Colin Powell told me, 'Everyone you know has the potential to let you



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Lt. Col. (ret.) Ranger Russell describes how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., dared to let his voice be heard during the 1960s passively fighting for civil rights change in America.

down, while only you have the potential to let yourself down," he said. "It is only by daring to seize an opportunity that something can be realized. Your dreams of the future are ill perceived in the hands of others."

Russell illustrated how each person is responsible for their own success, their own happiness, their own failures.

"Remember, the goals you aim for determine your fate," he said. "Aim high - shot for the stars. If you miss

your mark, you still end up amongst the heavens. Aim too low, you just might hit your target, but not overcome life's obstacles.

"Learn to be the master of your own opportunity," he said. "Or would you rather be the slave to the consequence. Celebrate where we are today because everyday is "A Day On...Not a Day Off."

Master Sgt. Terry McKnight followed Russell's speech by reading excerpts from King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

Chièvres/SHAPE community Town Hall meeting set

When: Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Hotel Maisières

Chièvres Garrison and the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux staff will host its quarterly Town Hall meeting for the Chièvres/SHAPE community Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Hotel Maisières.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

According to the Chièvres Garrison Commander Lt. Col. John G. Romero, some of the topics that will be discussed concern safety, schools, housing, employment, banking, financing, healthcare, morale, welfare, recreation and religious support.

Key members of the garrison leadership will be available to answer questions. Additionally, questions and answers will be available on the USAG Benelux website www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil.

Some concerns expressed by the community at the last Town Hall meeting include:

Question: Will an ATM machine be installed at Daumerie Caserne? • **Response:** Not at this time. The main focus is installing a machine in the commissary. Once that is com-

plete the Credit Union will review the options for Daumerie Caserne.

Question: Can the hours of the PX and commissary change to accommodate personnel working at SHAPE? • **Response:** The hours are always being reviewed by both the commissary and PX. They both review their hours of operation to better accommodate their customers. In fact, the PX has been open on Mondays, as a test - to better serve its customers.

Question: We live in government leased housing. When can we expect to get our storage sheds repaired? • **Response:** We are very much aware that the sheds need repair and replacement. We are working on getting funds. Also, where possible, make repairs through the self-help process. The situation is not easily solved since the sheds should be maintained by the owners of the quarters being leased to military personnel.

USAG Schinnen...serving the tri-border community

Third time a charm

Sixth-grader wins National Geographic Bee



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

The winning moment for sixth-grader Simon Cournoyer, 11, the local champion of the first round 2006 National Geography Bee held at AFNORTH International School Jan. 14. Cournoyer correctly answered "Vatican City" to the question "In April 2005 Pope John Paul II funeral procession crossed St. Peters square in which small European country?"

By LaDonna Davis

Students from AFNORTH International School (AIS) competed Jan. 12 for prizes and a chance to win a \$25,000 scholarship during the 2006 National Geographic Bee.

A record breaking 14 students from AIS, representing various ages and nationalities, partook in the first round of the nationwide competition after qualifying for the contest by taking a written geography test.

By answering the final question correctly, sixth-grader Simon Cournoyer, 11, a three time competitor, won the first round of the local competition and will

now compete to make it to the national competition where he has a chance to win a college scholarship in Washington D.C., May 23 and 24.

"I'm so proud of him, said Martin Cournoyer, Simon's father." "He really eats geography up, that's why he did so well."

"The teachers have really supported the program and to have this many kids up there is fantastic," said Audrey Griffin, the U.S. elementary's principle at AIS.

"I've never won before," said Simon. "I tried the competition two years ago, and last year too, but I wasn't ready then, I know this year I've improved."

Parents, teachers, and peers of the students all sat and watched in the school cafeteria as each qualifying boy and girl answered questions from subject matters ranging in continents and countries.

"I'm so proud of the students, it really takes a lot of courage to get up in front of their peers and a whole group of parents and teachers and answer questions," said Sandra Campbell, the sponsor for the AIS geography bee.

The competition is National Geographic's 18th and is held in thousands of schools across the United States and in the five U.S. territories, as well as in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DODDS) around the world for students in the fourth through the eighth grades.

"I think living here in Europe really brought about my children's interest in geography," said Heather Tomaszewski, mother of Jaime, 9, and Zach, 12, two qualifying students in the bee. "If we hadn't lived here, I don't think they'd be as interested... I'm thrilled and very proud that they met the qualifications to enter the competition."

"I was excited and felt pretty good when I found out I made it to the geography bee," said Ilkka Sinkkonen, 12, a first round geography bee contestant.

During the competition, each student is asked one question about geography

for six rounds, in the seventh and final round, called "odd item out," each student is given a question with three possible answers and the student must pick the answer that is incorrect. Each student's score is tallied and the top three scorers are announced. The top two scoring students then must face-off in a final round.

"I felt kind of weird when I found out I'd be in the geography bee," said Malachi Wimmer, 9, second place winner of the bee. "I knew that it would be hard and that I couldn't just win it, I'd have to study a lot."

Simon and Malachi faced off in the championship round of the competition designed to produce a winner of the competition.

The boys had to answer a series of questions and Cournoyer came out on top when he correctly answered which small European country Pope John Paul II funeral procession in April 2005 crossed St. Peters Square in. (The answer is Vatican City.)

"It's not an easy test and I just support them and cheer them on and congratulate our first place winner for going ahead," said Griffin.

The first place winner, Simon, must now take a written examination to advance to the next level of competition where, if qualified, he and a teacher escort will get an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Geographic Bee national championship moderated by Jeopardy host Alex Trebeck.

Community remembers Dr. King

By LaDonna Davis

Members of the tri-border community came together for an afternoon of celebration and remembrance during the Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon held Jan. 17 at the Brunssum International Inn in Brunssum, The Netherlands.

Presented by the Schinnen and Tri-Border Community special emphasis committee in honor of the late Dr. King and in celebration of the MLK holiday, this year's luncheon theme was "Remember, Celebrate, and Act: A Day on, Not a Day Off."

"This program is to honor and recognize the contributions that Dr. King made for the betterment of mankind," said Jerry Francis, emcee of the luncheon and equal employment opportunity officer for USAG Schinnen. "Dr. King day is a holiday, not just a day of remembering and celebrating, but also a day of service. Dr. King believed everyone could be great because everybody could serve."

As guests dined, clips of King's accomplishments, speeches and protests played and guest speaker, Pastor Dexter Griffin delivered a commemorative message in honor and remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

Key note speaker, Pastor Dexter Griffin, delivered a poignant and moving speech in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service luncheon held Jan. 17 at the Brunssum International Inn in Brunssum, The Netherlands.

King's fight for race, equality and justice for African Americans.

"When you remember the Dreamer, remember the fact that wherever he went, whomever he met, he changed

people, just the fact that he stepped into their presence," said Griffin.

King's non-violent approach to protesting during the height of the Civil Rights movement revolutionized the way Americans treated and viewed other racers and brought about change and equality for African Americans during a time when race discrimination was widely accepted.

It is because of King's contribution to American society that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is recognized as a national holiday.

"Dr. King Day means that there's a man who spent his life fighting for a cause," said Air Force Tech Sgt. Craig Pearson, a guest at the luncheon. "Through his efforts we're given a national day to recognize the struggle from where it was back in the '60s and '50s and granted it's just one day, but it's a day to recognize equality and what he did for that."

"It's our responsibility to never let time go back, that we keep moving on," said Griffin. "Because Dr. King has become rooted in the history of not only America, but all over the world, there are people that understand the meaning of what this warrior of justice talked about."

Fitness Center renamed to honor former employee

By LaDonna Davis

Andre' Bruls, a Holland Native who worked for the U.S. Army for more than 35 years, was remembered during a fitness center dedication ceremony held in his honor at U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Jan. 13.

Family members, friends and co-workers all attended the ceremony for Bruls, who died at the age of 59 while riding his bike on June 21, 2005.

"Dedicating the USAG Schinnen fitness center in his honor signifies we will never forget his contribution to this garrison or his legacy and friendship to the American people," said Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, garrison commander.

The fitness center was renamed The Andre' Bruls Fitness Center in his honor as a remembrance plaque was unveiled by Bruls' two sons, John and Eric Bruls.



USAG Brussels...serving the tri-mission community

NATO Education Day

By Dr. Joseph Heinlein

On Jan. 18 and 19, the USAG Brussels Education Center staff teamed with the SHAPE Education Center and university/college representatives to stage an Education EXPO at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

Following on from an initiative by USAG Commander Lt. Col. Patrick Kilroy, the event inaugurated the opening of education programs and services offered at the education center to NATO allies and staff.

Judging from the scores of interested visitors, this opportunity for an American university education while serving in Brussels was warmly received by NATO staffers and national delegations. Students for the various programs were enrolled from Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, and Greece. Interest expressed by at least a dozen representatives of other nations indicates that many more are considering the college programs for themselves and/or family members.

There are four colleges and universities currently offering American-based educational opportunities to the NATO community in Brussels: associate degree programs from Central Texas College; undergraduate and graduate programs from the University of Maryland; and, graduate programs from the University of Phoenix and the University of Oklahoma.

These programs of study are organized in a blend of classroom and on-line formats.

The programs are available at greatly reduced tuition for members of NATO delegations and their families.

In theory, it is possible to complete a college certificate, degree or even a masters' degree with one of these American institutions while residing or working in Brussels.

A counselor can assist in tailoring a program of study to address individual needs and interests.

Classes meet evenings and weekends at times convenient to the working professional.

Participants are granted special access to the USAG Brussels Education Center to attend classes and to use the library and PC labs.



PHOTO: United Kingdom Sgt. Howie Fishwick

Dr. Joseph Heinlein, Education Advisor from Brussels Education Center (second from left), is explaining American college programs to Italian NATO employees Luigi Maisto, Pino Nobile, and Marco Criscuolo who are interested in pursuing a baccalaureate degree from the University of Maryland University College at NATO Education Day that took place 18-19 January at HQ NATO.

Army Family Action Plan

Tri-mission to kick off forum

U.S. Army Garrison Brussels will kick off its annual Tri-mission community Army Family Action Plan forum March 14. Deadline for submitting issues and delegate registration for the forum is Feb. 15.

The AFAP Forum gives the community a voice and an opportunity to improve the quality of life in their community. It is open to everyone: from military service members, family members, civilian employees, retirees, adults and teens.

For those wanting to be a community delegate, on the workgroup staff, a conference assistant, or a unit representative or observer contact the AFAP program coordinator at 02 717-9643.

AFAP Questions and Answers

Q: Why is it important for the Brussels community to get involved in the AFAP program?

A: Because the Brussels Tri-mission community AFAP forum, whose motto is "we'll go As Far As Possible with your AFAP issues", focuses on the improvement of the quality of life for the whole community. Delegates, representing all components of our population, gather in workgroups and brainstorm for two days on issues that have been pre-submitted by the community members, to finally come up with the top three priorities that they want to see resolved. That input is briefed to the community leadership who helps "make it happen"! So the AFAP forum at USAG-Brussels is the very first place where things can change in the system, according to the recommendations that our people make.

Q: What concerns and quality of life issues do you hope the 2006 AFAP Conference will address?

A: What issues do I hope will be addressed? But that is not the point at all! The beauty of AFAP is that it is not the program coordinator but the members of the community who identify, submit, prioritize and present to the leadership the issues that they believe are important to be taken care of... So that it makes a difference in their everyday life in the Brussels community, and can even encompass all Department of Defense sometimes!

Q: What concerns and quality of life issues in the Brussels community have been resolved since last year?

A: The three issues from the youth group are completed! First, 14 new videos and games, three televisions and two game stations were purchased at Child and Youth Services. Then, the Snack Menu was completely reviewed and now contains a hundred suggestions of food items that the kids desired. The Graffiti Art Project was also implemented and became a huge success during the summer 2005: each kid custom-

ized a tile so the Middle School and Teen Center ceiling got repainted. Among the issues raised by the adults, a list of "local orthodontic care providers" was developed by the NATO Dental Clinic, containing the names and contact information of seventeen orthodontists, all meeting DoD prescribed standards and accepted by the insurance company. The issue regarding "Access to SHAPE installation" has been addressed personally by USAG Brussels Commander Lt. Col. Patrick Kilroy. The SHAPE access policy for Brussels personnel was clarified, how to gain an access pass has been negotiated, and the liaison person to facilitate the process is identified. The detailed information is now posted on the USAG

Brussels website. Another result of the 2005 Forum is that a comprehensive recycling program is on its way at USAG Brussels... Last but not least, a brand new laundry facility is also being set up for the community to use. Thanks to AFAP for bringing in all these quality of life improvements!

Q: What are your goals, heading into the 2006 forum?

A: Getting two major things, without which there is no AFAP Conference possible: issues and delegates! Issues are to be submitted in a specific format to be considered valid: they must have a title, a scope, and up to three recommendations. Issue forms can be found on the Brussels website, in the *Brussels Weekly*, and they will be sent by email. There are also 17 blue boxes placed around the Brussels community where people can

anonymously drop off their completed forms, and there is a supply of blank forms next to each box. For the delegates, the forum looks for a good sample representing a cross-section of the Brussels population. All branches of service may participate, military people as well as civilians, and even retirees and teens. Every community component is encouraged to send a representative!

Q: When is the AFAP Conference taking place and are the community members allowed to sit in on the conference?

A: The Brussels Tri-mission community AFAP forum will be held here on March 14 and 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on both days. Delegates and volunteer staff are pre-registered, but a few slots are available for those who would like to come and see the program in action as "observers". Those who want to have their voice heard should submit an issue or register as a delegate.

Q: Any practical information to add? Where to find out more about the program?

A: Bottom line is: if someone from the community wants to get more information on issues, delegates, volunteers, or any other aspect of the program, call the AFAP program coordinator at 02 717-9643, or stop by Army Community Service, Bldg. 4, top floor, room 306.



Seventeen blue Army Family Action Plan boxes have been distributed around the Brussels community so everyone has an opportunity to express issues or ideas to make the community better.



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